

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24, with the following paragraph:

a1 This means that if the level of the first formant a1 is not increased, then the level of the masking range MA does not increase, and clearly the levels of the second formant a2, the third formant a3 . . . are in a state which exceed the level of the masking range MA, so the sound a can be clearly detected, and if this sound is language, the content thereof can be understood perfectly. This analysis can be applied not only to an individual with ~~presbycusis~~ presbycusis, but also to the above described individual with hearing impairment regarding foreign language.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 6, with the following paragraph:

a2 In Fig. 3, there are shown a buffer circuit 1 at the input side, a filter group 2, a rectification circuit group 3, a peak detection circuit group 4, a comparator group 5, an analog switch group 6, a variable equalizer 7, a buffer circuit 8 at the output side, a delay circuit 9, and an A/D converter 10, wherein the filter group 2 is comprised of filters F1, F2, F3 . . . Fn, the rectification circuit group 3 is comprised of rectification circuits D1, D2, D3 . . . Dn, a capacitor and a resistor, the peak detection circuit group 4 is comprised of the peak detection diodes PD1, PD2, PD3 . . . PDn, the comparator group 5 is comprised of the comparators P1, P2, P3 . . . Pn, and the analog switch group ~~5~~ 6 is comprised of the analog switches S1, S2, S3 . . . Sn, and C1, C2, C3 . . . Cn are capacitors which function according to the characteristic of the variable equalizer 7.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 9, with the following paragraph:

a3 According to the characteristics determination process, analog switch S3 is turned ON by the output of comparator P3 to connect the ~~comparator~~ capacitor C3, and the operation characteristics of the variable equalizer 7 is set to characteristic E3, shown in Fig. 4C.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 13, with the following paragraph:

a4 Fig. 5 is a block diagram depicting the key sections of the acoustic signal processor according to another embodiment of the present invention, and in Fig. 5, there are shown a buffer-circuit ~~11~~ circuit 11, an A/D converter 12, a digital signal processor 13, and a buffer circuit 14.
